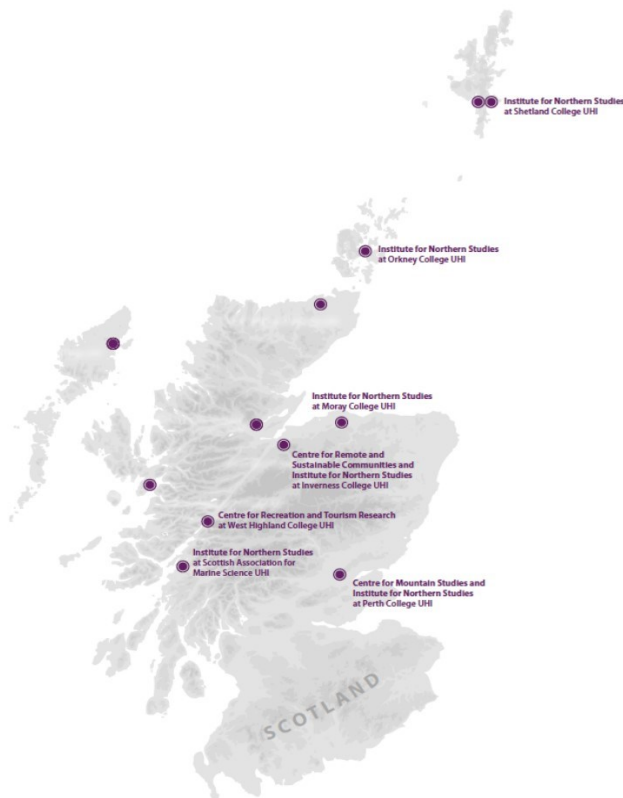


Institution: University of the Highlands and Islands

Unit of Assessment: UoA 25: Area Studies

Section 1: Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy



UHI Area Studies research focuses on remote and rural communities, with a specific emphasis on the distinctive cultural and natural landscapes of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and the peoples of this region in the past, the present and into the future – and on placing the Scottish context in a global perspective. As shown on this map, the UoA is a unique and innovative research collaboration comprising the UHI Institute for Northern Studies (INS) – an interdisciplinary research and teaching unit on three UHI campuses (Orkney, Shetland, Perth) with associated staff across the UHI partnership – in association with three research centres:

- the Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS), at Perth College UHI;
- the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research (CRTR), at West Highland College UHI;
- the Centre for Remote and Sustainable Communities (CRSC), at Inverness College UHI.

INS and the three research centres are strategically linked by membership of the UHI Society, Identity, Landscape and Knowledge (SILK) Research Cluster (REF 5a, Section 1) and regularly contribute to its seminar series and other events.

The UHI Area Studies team's research and impact strategy considers humanity, its articulation with landscape and society, and the products of that articulation – underpinned by collaboration in research projects and PhD supervision and examination. The team brings together researchers from diverse disciplines under the broad remit of society and landscape, characterised by an interdisciplinary focus with a particular emphasis on the social sciences and humanities. We have a shared interest in human-environment interactions, cultural landscapes/ecosystems, societal sustainability and heritage, and the use of different pedagogical approaches. Our research falls into 3 main themes: 1) Cultural and natural landscapes; 2) Identity & heritage; and 3) Sustaining communities and environments.

The Area Studies submission to REF 2014 was by the then Centre for Nordic Studies. A key objective was to establish a virtual research institute incorporating researchers across UHI, with strategic links to smaller research units. This was achieved in 2017, when UHI established the INS. Other objectives stated in 2014 and achieved during the assessment period were:

- new research area in peripherality studies and government policy: achieved in 2016 by expanding research and teaching in Island and Rural Governance;
- development of research area in Island Studies, achieved in 2017 with the appointment of Jennings to the Faculty of the University of Prince Edward Island and the development of RETI (Excellence Network of Island Territories/Réseau d'excellence des territoires insulaires), a network of 27 island-based universities on six continents developing closer collaborations in research and education;

- increase in postgraduate research and taught (PGR, PGT) student numbers achieved with Institute status in 2017;
- new strategic opportunities with other Universities (e.g., Heriot-Watt, Glasgow, St Andrews, Prince Edward Island, Malmo) achieved in 2017 and ongoing;
- new MRes Northern Studies, achieved in 2018;
- maintain an excellent research environment through a programme of international conferences; achieved through 6 international conferences.

A final objective was an increase in critical mass for REF 2021, addressing the resilience agenda of the regional development agency, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), and UHI; this is evidenced in section 2. Our considerable growth since 2014 reflects our work on interdisciplinary area studies, identity and heritage studies, tourism, and a growing influence in developing sustainable community strategies across the globe.

In REF 2014, staff working in CMS, CRTR, and CRSC (then the Centre for Remote and Rural Studies, CRRC) were reported under UoA 17 (Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology); the work of these centres was considered within the Sustainability of Social-Ecological/Economic Systems cluster. Within this, relevant objectives were to: consolidate and expand work on coupled social-ecological systems (including mountains) and their governance; contribute to evidence-based policy-making across the mountains of Europe (CMS, CRRC); and embed our growing recognition and reputation in enhancing global adventure, eco and wildlife tourism (CRTR). In the assessment period, specific aims were achieved through:

- CMS participation in the Horizon 2020 project *Social Innovation in Marginal Rural Areas* (SIMRA, 2016-20) and two projects on European mountains, for the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON) and the European Parliament;
- CMS leadership of *Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism* (SHAPE, 2017-20), co-funded by the European Commission's Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme, also involving CRTR;
- CMS organisation of the International conference *Mountains of our Future Earth*, in October 2015, following on from similar conferences in 2005 and 2010;
- CMS projects relating to land ownership and land management in Scotland, funded by the Scottish Government, Scottish Land Commission and other organisations;
- CRRC projects on inclusion, sustainability and change in rural communities in the Highlands and Islands in Scotland, with universities in Canada, which have informed government policy.
- The evolution of CRRC into the Centre for Remote and Sustainable Communities (CRSC), extending research and knowledge exchange to the global South. The new Director leads the REJUVENATE Project (funded by Wellspring Foundation) in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), which develops principles for intergenerational research and sharing best practice with hundreds of practitioners and researchers across the global North and South.
- CRTR leadership of *Slow Adventure in Northern Territories* (SAINT, 2015-18), co-funded by the NPA Programme; *The Coast that Shaped the World* (2019-22), funded through ERDF, and three projects funded by ERASMUS +;
- CRTR initiation, development and ongoing co-ordination of the Adventure Tourism Research Association (ATRA), a global membership organisation bringing together academics and practitioners in adventure tourism and outdoor recreation. ATRA's principal forum is the annual *International Adventure Conference*, started by CRTR in 2012, which attracts a worldwide audience. The conference has subsequently been held in Norway, Ireland and Spain; the 2021 is planned for Queenstown, New Zealand.

Our impact strategy is to help sustain local and global communities through the practical application of our research to solve problems, create products, and inform government policy, as exemplified by both impact case studies. CRTR and INS staff have developed tourism-based products for businesses in the Highlands and Islands and beyond. INS staff advise HIE and the Ministries of Education and Tourism in Vanuatu and Fiji on cultural tourism; and the Scottish

Government (SG) on cultural matters through membership of cross-party working groups. At CRSC, de Lima contributes to policy development in the SG and The Scottish Parliament on diverse social issues; Johnson is an expert adviser for international research programmes funded by IFAD (on rural youth opportunities), DFID (on children's harmful work in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia) and the Expert Research Forum for the Consortium for Street Children. ESRC's Impact Initiative has highlighted her ESRC-DFID funded *Youth Uncertainty Rights (YOUR) World Research* as best practice and an impact case study.

CMS maintains strong linkages with key players in both Scotland and Europe, shapes its activities in response to policy agendas, and aims to contribute to these. This flexible approach has been essential for the continuity of the CMS for 20 years, and has enabled the achievement of impact arising from research, for example:

- Global: the 2015 conference led to a special issue (vol 36, no. 4) of the peer-reviewed journal *Mountain Research and Development*;
- European: particularly through collaboration with Euromontana, the European association of mountain areas, of which UHI is a member, CMS research on European mountains and policy has been utilised by European institutions. One example is the European Parliament's 2016 resolution calling for a working definition of mountainous regions and an Agenda for EU Mountainous Regions;
- Scottish: as most projects are commissioned by the SG or its agencies, they have a strong interest in the application of CMS research, as do NGOs, such as Scottish Land and Estates (SLE) and conservation NGOs, which have also commissioned projects. CMS enables impact through ongoing relationships and meetings with all of these entities, as exemplified by the impact case study.

Together with the policy-oriented nature of much of our research, a key factor for the continued expansion of INS, the continuity of CMS, and the growth of CRTR and CRSC is our interdisciplinary approach: using humanities, social science and ecological research methods, often with an economic dimension. Staff are actively encouraged to develop and apply expertise in new methodologies from both social and natural sciences. All research projects are evaluated by the university's Research Ethics Committee and conform to the principles of the 'Concordat to Support Research Integrity' (REF 5a, Section 2). Our methods and approaches reflect the three pillars (social, environmental, economic) of sustainability, a core concept underpinning our research. As we place great emphasis on stakeholder and community engagement in our research practice, our research is often transdisciplinary: for example, the CMS and CRTR projects funded through the NPA Programme, an ongoing post-Covid project, and Phase 2 of the REJUVENATE Project, in which CRSC is a partner. This promotes a socio-ecological model linking children, youth and adults, as agents of change, to decision-makers and to their rapidly changing environmental and political contexts, extending impact from *YOUR World Research* in Ethiopia and Nepal and bringing learning from creative and participatory methods from intergenerational research in the global South to the Highlands and Islands.

The UHI Area Studies team's goals are to undertake world-leading inter- and trans-disciplinary and intergenerational community-driven research, and to extend impact – including influencing policy – through research and knowledge exchange with policy makers, service providers and enterprises in remote and rural communities. This will be done in alignment with the aims of the UHI Research, Impact and Knowledge Exchange Strategic Plan (2018-23: REF5a, Section 2). Over the next five years, we will work together on research projects and knowledge exchange (KE) events to achieve these aims. Our work, across the three themes, will focus on three geographical settings: Scotland; northern and Arctic regions; and remote and rural areas (particularly in mountains and on islands) worldwide. One emphasis will be on learning between regions, including how experiences from the global South may be relevant in the global North and vice versa. This work will build on recent and current activities and the excellent networks of the team members, both within and outside UHI (see section 4).

2. People**Staff****The UHI Area Studies team has an interdisciplinary and international strategy for staffing and recruitment.**

INS core staff comprise: a 1 FTE Director, Prof Donna Heddle, responsible for INS on all campuses; one 1 FTE Reader, Dr Alex Sanmark, in Perth; one 0.5 FTE senior lecturer, Dr Andrew Jennings, in Shetland; two 1 FTE lecturers (Dr Oisin Plumb; Lynn Campbell) and 0.2 FTE Prof Stefan Brink, in Orkney. The Institute is supported by a 1 FTE administration officer in Orkney. What is now the INS was founded in 2006 by Heddle. She was joined in 2009 by Sanmark, from Sweden; Jennings, from Shetland; and Campbell (currently undertaking a PhD) – and from 2013 - 15 by Derrick McClure. Following the award of Institute status in 2017, the team has been joined by Plumb (in 2018), Brink (in 2019), and associate members, based at other UHI academic partners: Dr Lindsay Blair, Dr Ian Blyth, Dr Leslie Mabon, and Dr Steven Timoney. Visiting Professors, Readers, and Research Fellows contribute greatly to the work of the Institute.

Core staff at CMS comprise: 1 FTE Director (Prof Martin Price), 1 FTE Senior Research Fellow (Dr Ros Bryce), one 1 FTE Research Associate (ECR) (previously Dr Jayne Glass and Dr Diana Valero; now Dr Andrew Ruck), 0.2 FTE Prof Anna Lawrence; and a 0.6 FTE administrator. Price established the CMS in 2000, and was appointed Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development in 2009. He retires in January 2021. His role will then be taken over by Bryce, who joined CMS in 2014 and was promoted to Senior Research Fellow in 2018; she leads on the delivery of major projects, as well as supervising PhD students and teaching. Lawrence (previously Head of Social and Economic Research at Forest Research) and Ruck were hired in 2019; there were also four fixed-term positions related to the SHAPE and SIMRA projects and the international conference in 2015. A new Research Associate will be hired in 2021. Since REF 2014, two ECRs (who had both done their PhDs with CMS) moved to Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). We do not regard this as a loss, as they continue to collaborate with us (in 5 projects so far); and these movements led to opportunities to hire new ECRs from the universities of Aberdeen and Stirling. The ECRs appointed during the assessment period had just completed their PhDs and are supported in their postdoctoral work on large research projects by senior staff.

CRTR was created in 2012; the 1 FTE Head of Centre (Dr Steve Taylor) joined as Projects Manager in 2010 and was promoted in 2017. Other staff are a 1 FTE Projects Manager and 2 Project Officers (0.8, 1 FTE).

Prof Philomena de Lima (promoted to this title in 2019) established the CRRC in 2004 and was Director (0.6 FTE) for most of the assessment period. Strategic investment by Inverness College UHI has transformed CRRC into the Centre for Remote and Sustainable Communities (CRSC) with the appointment of Johnson as Director (1 FTE), Dr Alessandra Campoli (1 FTE), Dr Mandy Haggith (0.8 FTE) and Dr Lesley Mickel (1.0 FTE). De Lima continues at 0.2 FTE. The CRSC includes an ECR who is completing her PhD and the CREATE team (2 staff at 0.5 FTE), who promote entrepreneurial thinking and develop remote learning with UHI staff, enterprises, educators and researchers across the Highlands and Islands.

Communication is key in the cohesion of this successful interdisciplinary team across widely separated locations. This is addressed by regular team meetings (both by videoconferencing and in person), online chat sessions for all staff, and cross-campus working on projects, PhD supervision, and events management.

Staff are encouraged by management to take ownership of projects, to propose ideas for new collaborations, especially with business and other regional stakeholders, and to contribute to strategic planning. International projects are actively encouraged. Examples include Valero's project on social innovation in the Mediterranean and Near East, developed for the UN Food and

Agriculture Organisation (FAO) following her work in the SIMRA project, and Plumb's work with the Pictish Trail team in the Highlands and Islands, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The team is committed to the support, empowerment, and promotion of its members. Mentoring of staff is a priority and is supplemented by the UHI-wide scheme (REF5a, Section 3). All staff are encouraged to play an active role in key committees, both UHI and external, and are given time allocations to do so. All core INS staff, and Johnson, are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

Staff are encouraged, after experience supervising taught PG Dissertations, to join PhD supervisory teams, which contain at least two supervisors. Experienced supervisors mentor those who are less experienced; all are supported by UHI Supervisor training and updating (REF5a, Section 3).

Equality and diversity

De Lima's and Johnson's research has a strong focus on equality and diversity, and the team follows UHI policies in this regard (REF5a, Section 3), including undertaking Unconscious Bias Training. These policies underpin support for research vibrancy and equality of opportunity according to the principles of Athena Swan and the Aurora leadership development programme, which Bryce recently completed. During an annual Professional Development Review with their line manager, staff review research achievements, request staff development opportunities, give feedback on their working experience, and agree new objectives and required support. Flexible working arrangements help staff manage childcare alongside work. All staff who have taken maternity leave have subsequently returned to work. Research students are encouraged to develop a healthy work-life balance and to take appropriate leave.

The UHI Area Studies team has the following gender balance.

Category	% male	% female
Staff	50	50
Research students	45	55

The UHI-wide staff development programme is described in REF5a, Section 3. Specific examples of activities within this UoA include:

- access to support (financial and time) for staff undertaking higher degrees: currently being utilised by Campbell;
- a UHI-wide sabbatical scheme: accessed by 11 Area Studies staff during the assessment period;
- a biennial UHI-wide staff (and PhD student) Research Conference at which 3 INS postgraduate students have won awards for their presentations.

Funding is available for staff to attend events and conferences within the UK and overseas. Staff are actively encouraged to engage in UHI subject networks and research clusters (REF5a, Section 1).

The UHI research infrastructure is also maintained through policies on Scholarship, KE and Research, and Forums for exchange of good practice (REF5a, Section 3). The UHI Area Studies team is very involved in KE activities, such as stakeholder evenings through the UHI KE Sector Tourism Group, chaired by Heddle, and the Entrepreneurship KE group attended by Johnson and the CREATE team.

Research students

During the assessment period, there were 19 PhD completions, funded by organisations including the Government of Oman, Forestry Commission [UK and Scotland], European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Scottish Forestry Trust. Currently, INS has 6 MRes

students and 16 PhD students, including 2 funded by ESIF, 2 by the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities (SGSAH), 1 funded by the Edrington Group, and 1 with Heriot-Watt University. CMS has 3 PhD students: 2 funded by ESIF, 1 by Transport Scotland. CRSC has 1 PhD student funded by ESIF. The wide range of interdisciplinary topics that these research students are, and have been, studying reflect the interdisciplinary research of the team. Their distribution across the three research themes is as follows:

Cultural & natural landscapes	23	Sustaining communities and environments	13
Identity & heritage	10		

The team provide a context for PhD study that is notable because the students enjoy a particularly close proximity to research staff, with whom they interact and work as part of a team, and are engaged in community-related outreach and public engagement activities. This provides a dynamic and exciting - and highly productive - environment for study. Students have opportunities to immerse themselves in a unique geographic, cultural, and environmental context, and much of their research concerns the natural and cultural environments close to the places where they are based.

Students receive a comprehensive UHI induction, are supported within a structured framework including regular review and oversight and have access to a varied UHI-wide programme of events and workshops (REF5a, Section 3). According to identified developmental needs, each student undertakes an individually tailored programme of research training in their first year. All students are fully involved in research centre activities, including regular team meetings. They are encouraged to take advantage of all training opportunities and to attend the summer school and methods training courses provided by the SGSAH and Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS) in particular, and to attend conferences, with support from internal, project and UHI funds. They have opportunities to contribute to teaching and the assessment of taught PGT assignments. Students have also gained experience through organising the annual *Scottish Ecology, Environment and Conservation conference* and other KE events. INS students organised a virtual student conference and the *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Postgraduate Conference 2018* and have contributed to the series of *International St Magnus Conferences* and other INS conferences. Similarly, CMS students were part of the team organising the *Mountains of our Future Earth* conference.

As some INS research students are at disparate geographical locations, not necessarily in a University setting, specific measures are required to ensure a cohesive research environment. To maintain focus and support, students and the UHI-led cross-institution (Aberdeen, Glasgow etc.) supervisory teams meet online every two weeks. Further reflecting the need for support for isolated students more generally, INS has created a monthly virtual support group for all its research staff and students. This has proved a great success with the students. As CMS and CRSC PhD students are based at single locations, support for them is provided there.

The research environment for PhD students is further enriched by interaction with PGT students on programmes available online across the world; many progress to research postgraduate study (conversion rate 15%). The dissertations of the taught students link with ongoing research; 4 have resulted in peer-reviewed publications in the assessment period.

Our commitment to, and success in, providing an excellent research environment for our students is borne out by the completions in the assessment period and the steady rise in students registered for research degrees. In addition, 6 of our PhD graduates from this period have continued into research careers following graduation, at universities in the UK and overseas, and one is Director of the Environmental Inspection and Control Department in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, Oman.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities**Income**

The total research project income achieved by the UHI Area Studies team since 2014 is £4,532855.79

The strategy towards generating income has been successful, particularly in generating income from non-UK sources – from research, knowledge exchange, business consultancy, and PhDs – and substantial income from postgraduate teaching. This has ensured continuity and some growth in numbers of both staff and PhD students. While we will continue to apply for EU funding that is available after Brexit, our future strategy will be differentiated across the three geographical settings. For Scotland and northern Europe/Arctic, we will target traditional funding sources such as UKRI and the funding councils, and also new sources such as the Nordic Council, UK and Scottish agencies' calls related to post-Covid19 recovery, and the City and Islands Deals in Scotland, while developing more business innovation and consultancy opportunities. For work in the global South, we are involved in UHI's partnership with two Universities in South Africa and are well positioned to target calls from UKRI and GCRF, building on Johnson's and Heddle's well-developed partnerships with research and civil society institutions. The future strategy will be to develop new non-EU sources of income with our partners in the global South, in the light of Brexit, and more business consultancy opportunities. We are also developing bids for UKRI and are well positioned to target GCRF bids, building on well-developed partnerships with research and civil society institutions in the global South.

The principal projects are listed below (note: partners are listed in section 4):

Project title	Funder	Budget in assessment period	PI or (lead UHI staff)
International			
REJUVENATE (Phase 2)	The Wellspring Foundation	£6,000	Johnson
European Commission			
The Assembly Project: Meeting-places in Northern Europe AD 400-150	Horizon 2020 Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)	£21,767	Sanmark
Preserving and Sustainably Governing Cultural Heritage and Landscapes in European Coastal and Maritime Regions (PERICLES)	Horizon 2020	£58,633	(Taylor)
Social Innovation in Marginal Rural Areas (SIMRA)	Horizon 2020	£282,726	(Price)
Balanced Regional Development in Areas with Geographical Specificities (BRIDGES)	European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON)	£60,377	(Price)
Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism (SHAPE)	NPA	£622,806	Price
Slow Adventure in Northern Territories (SAINT)	NPA	£852,284	Taylor
Cluster Atlantique pour l'Innovation Technologique et	Atlantic Area programme	£29,073	(Taylor)

Économique de la filière du Nautisme (CAPITEN)			
Other countries			
Mobile/Migrant Lives – Rhythms of living and being	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) (Canada)	£10,838	de Lima
The assembly site of Anundshög in Sweden	Government of Sweden	£12,400	Sanmark
From traditional resource use to modern industrial production in western Norway (TRADMOD)	Research Council of Norway	£6,963	(Price)
UK			
Waterways in the West Mainland of Orkney: A Pilot Study	British Academy/Leverhulme	£7,360	Sanmark
From Papay to Polynesia: a study of tourism in small islands	Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) UHI LTA	£22,000 £5,000	Heddle, Sanmark
Archipelagos of Adventure II: Fiji	ODA/GCRF	£12,391	Heddle
Scots and Nynorsk as cultural movements	AHRC	£12,960	INS team
Orkney & Shetland Community Digital Heritage	Digital Scotland	£15,091	Jennings, Sanmark
Estonian War Museum Project	HERA	£21,000	Jennings
CNS implementation project	HIE, Scottish Government	£166,351	Heddle
The social, economic and environmental benefits of wild land in Scotland	Scottish Natural Heritage	£7,300	(Bryce)
Social, economic and environmental outcomes from diverse land ownership	Scottish Government	£9,244	(Glass)
International interventions to manage land markets and limit the concentration of land ownership	Scottish Land Commission	£23,520	Glass
The effectiveness of community ownership mechanisms and options for expanding community ownership in Scotland	Scottish Land Commission	£4,066	(Glass)
Grouse shooting, moorland management and local communities	Scottish Land and Estates	£6,584	Bryce
Research to support delivery of sustainable deer management in Scotland	Scottish Government	£28,494	(Glass)
Loch Arkaig Baseline Socio-economic Study	Scottish Woodland Trust	£6,359	Bryce

Infrastructure and facilities

INS has three primary locations – a dedicated building in Kirkwall in Orkney, and at Perth and Shetland Colleges UHI; CMS is based at Perth College UHI; CRSC at Inverness College UHI; and CRTR at West Highland College UHI in Fort William. These locations provide very well-equipped spaces, with access to the latest technology for video conferencing (VC) – UHI is

arguably the biggest investor in, and user of, VC technology of any Higher Education Institution in the UK – including high specification wifi connections (REF5a, Section 4). Staff and student PCs are equipped with software allowing them to join online meetings and webinars, and access the UHI-wide library system, from their desks. There are subject-specific libraries and rare book collections at both INS and CMS, as well as designated space for taught and research postgraduate students. The research environment is a thriving one, with opportunities for students to link into the UHI infrastructure through UHI's Graduate School, which offers a full programme of training events, and annual research student conference (REF5a, Section 3). As all staff and students are therefore fully used to working online, research activity and training have not been compromised by the need to work from home during the Covid19 pandemic.

The integrated nature of INS, combining research, teaching, business consultancy, and community engagement, helps to create a unique vibrant research environment which is continually developing and diversifying. INS offers an annual series of public seminars which brings eminent experts to Orkney and Shetland and has been put online due to Covid19; the seminars are recorded and viewed by people around the world. CMS has a dedicated floor of a building and access to VC studios. The dedicated part-time administrator supports staff and research students with financial and organisational administration and logistics. CRTR has two offices and access to VC studios, in very regular use as lead partner or partner in six current trans-national projects, and access to considerable equipment and resources in the School of Adventure Studies. CRSC has meeting/seminar facilities in which researchers can hold capacity building analysis sessions, KE and impact events, which reach out to teaching and research staff in Environmental Science, Sociology, Geography, Education, Tourism, and Entrepreneurship.

Students have expressed considerable satisfaction with the PGR experience at UHI, as evidenced by the national PGR and PRES surveys (REF5a, Section 3) which note the exceptional nature of student experience. Our locations are ultimately our greatest asset, allied to our place-based research.

4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

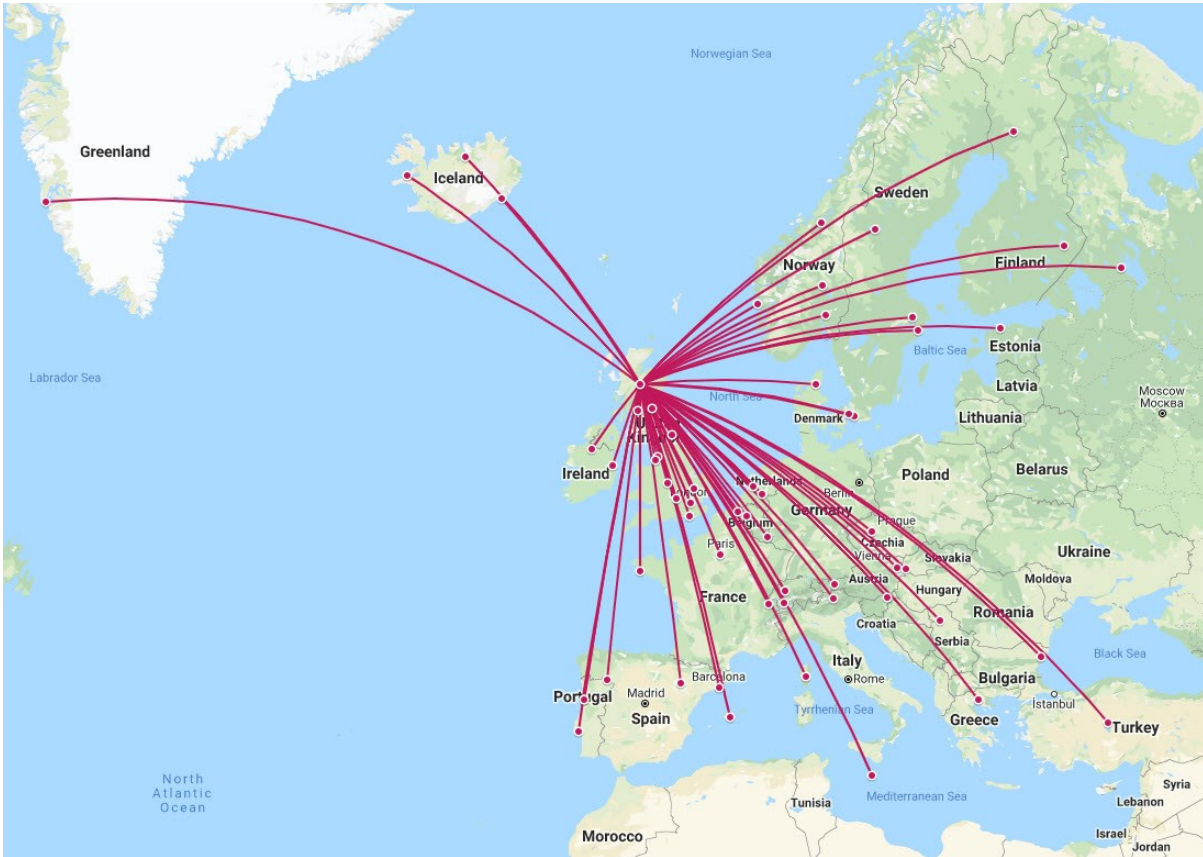
The UHI Area Studies research and impact strategy is underpinned by the *UHI Research, Impact and Knowledge Exchange Strategic Plan*, which promotes engagement in research that plays to the regional focus and impact of the University's campuses, whilst also ensuring international linkage and significance (REF5a, Section 2). Our area-specific interdisciplinary research looks at how humans interact with their environment (physical, social, economic); the products of this interaction; and how these products can be used to sustain the communities that created them. The strategy is immeasurably strengthened by teaching and research in and with these communities. This ensures that the ownership of their cultural identity passes back to them, while placing and expressing that identity in a context that is increasingly global. The strategy is also resilient in the face of Covid19, as we are experts in working remotely both in teaching and research, and in supporting remote communities.

Conferences

Conferences are a vital contribution to the research base. During the assessment period, INS organised the 3rd, 4th, and 5th *International St Magnus Conferences* – 2016 (72 participants, 12 countries), 2018 (80 participants, 15 countries), 2020 (91 participants, 8 countries) – as well as the *Rune Rede 9th Full Day Runic Colloquium* (2015), the *RETI Impact of culture heritage on economic development in island destinations* conference and summer school (2015), and 'Creative Orkney: Arts and Creativity' (2014). In 2015, CMS organised the international conference *Mountains of our Future Earth*, in Perth, in collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (400 participants, 52 countries). Taylor, from CRTR, is a co-organiser of the annual *International Adventure Conferences* (held annually in the UK, Ireland, Norway, and Spain since 2014 and planned for New Zealand in 2021). In 2016, Blair was Convenor of *An Linne: The Jon Schueler International Centenary Symposium*, at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI.

International recognition and collaboration with other universities

Collaboration with other universities and subsequent international recognition are primary aims of the team. The maps below show the extent of our collaboration in Europe and further afield.



Collaboration in Europe



Global connections

INS provides a high-quality and stimulating environment for research and study. Our excellent resources and peaceful locations are conducive to meaningful and reflective research. During the assessment period, INS was visited by 52 academics from around the world, some on four-week visits and some on sabbatical, and its expertise has been sought by other universities – e.g. Sheffield, Faroe Islands, Newfoundland, and Copenhagen – in setting up similar centres and integrative research programmes. International collaborative links have been established with the Universities of the Sorbonne, Messina (Italy), Reykjavik, Akureyri (Iceland), Oslo, Vienna, Uppsala, Copenhagen, Lund, Western Australia, Bergen, the Faroe Islands, Newfoundland, and Charles University (Prague).

CRSC has strong partnerships with the Universities of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and Tribhuvan (Nepal) deriving from Johnson's long-term research with academics linked to both Universities, lecturing and seminars. CRSC has continued to work on impact activities with researchers and partners from Ethiopia and Nepal during 2020 as part of KE and the REJUVENATE Project. This involves collaboration with researchers based at Universities for example in Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town, New York and Australia (Sunshine coast) and across Europe.

Our staff have been recognised internationally for their research. Heddle is visiting professor at Malmö University, and Sanmark is honorary reader at the University of Uppsala, both in Sweden. Jennings is on the International Advisory Board for Advanced Migration Studies (AMIS), Copenhagen University, Denmark, and graduate faculty member at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. Price was Adjunct Professor at the University of Bergen, Norway (2014-17) and has been appointed to the Advisory Boards of the Afromontane Research Unit, University of the Free State (South Africa) and the Centre for Mountain Research at the Polytechnic Institute of Braganca (Portugal), and the International Advisory Committee of the Canadian Mountain Assessment. Johnson is an invited collaborator on the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) involving Universities in Canada, South Africa, Brazil and Scotland.

International research projects led by, or involving, the team are listed in the table below. Some of these projects started during the assessment period, but as no income has yet been received, they are not included in the table on pages 8-9.

Project, years	Lead partner	Other partners
The Assembly Project (2010-2015)	UHI (INS)	Universities of Oslo, Vienna, and Durham
Anundshog excavations (2015-ongoing)	Uppsala University, Sweden	UHI (INS) (impact case study)
SAINT (2015-18)	UHI (CRTR)	10 other partners from Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, UK and Finland
From Papay to Polynesia (2016-ongoing)	UHI (INS)	SQA and the Government of Vanuatu
SIMRA (2016-20)	James Hutton Institute, UK	24 other partners from 14 countries
Managing Recreational User Group Conflict Potential (2016-19)	Western Norway Research Institute	UHI (CRTR)
Estonia War Museum (2017-18)	UHI (INS)	Estonian National Museums
BRIDGES (2017-19)	Spatial Foresight, Luxembourg	UHI (CMS) and 14 other partners from 13 countries
CAPITEN (2017-20)	Regional Council of Brittany, France	UHI (CRTR) and 18 partners from Scotland, Ireland, France, Portugal and Spain

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

SHAPE (2017-20)	UHI (CMS and CRTR)	7 other partners from Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and UK
TRADMOD (2018-22)	University of Bergen, Norway	UHI (CMS) and 4 other partners from Norway and Sweden
PERICLES (2018-21)	University of Aalborg, Denmark	UHI (CRTR) 15 partners from 8 countries
Archipelagos of Adventure II: Fiji (2019-20)	UHI (INS)	University of Fiji
The Coast that Shaped the World (2019-2022)	UHI (CRTR)	West Coast Waters
Mobile/Migrant Lives – Rhythms of living and being (2019-2022)	UHI (CRSC)	University of Guelph
REJUVENATE Phase 2 (2020 - 2022)	Institute of Development Studies	UHI (CRSC) and partners across the global North and South
StoryTagging (2020-2022)	Robert Gordon University	UHI (CRTR) and 6 other partners from 4 countries
Scientific Tourism (2020-2022)	University of Lapland, Finland	UHI (CRTR, CMS) and 4 other partners from 3 countries

Our many strong international research training linkages include:

- International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) Summer Institute, annually since 2009 – involves 14 Universities in Europe, USA, Mexico and Canada; de Lima was a founding faculty member and has hosted visiting doctoral students.
- Rural Policy Learning Commons: SSHRC partnership in Canada, USA, Mexico and Europe (2014-21), involving 21 universities and other partners; de Lima was Member of Executive Council and Steering Committee (2014-18) and Migration Theme Network Lead (2014-17). This provides financial support for doctoral students and ECRs to attend international conferences and has resulted in de Lima leading on two co-authored publications involving ECRs and doctoral students from Canada and Mexico, to be published by Routledge and Springer.
- A University Capacity Development Programme (2020-24) funded by the British Council and the South African government to support ten PhD students at the University of the Free State and the University of Venda, with supervision from UHI.
- Arrangements for collaborative PGR training with Uppsala, Corsica, and East Tennessee State Universities, and memoranda of understanding for Erasmus+ partnerships with University of Prince Edward Island and Dalhousie University (Canada), Charles University (Prague), University of Malta, and Malmö University, Sweden, where PhD student Andrea Freund had an Erasmus exchange in 2018.
- Seminar series with CRSC partners from Johnson's *YOUR World Research*, extending the 'Child Research into Policy and Practice Forum' (developed by the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, Addis Ababa University, and CHADET, Ethiopia, and funded by ESRC's Impact Initiative) to include youth. Affiliates of CRSC through *YOUR World Research* have also set up a seminar series on youth and uncertainty with CERID at Tribhuvan University and ActionAid Nepal.

CMS collaborates widely in research projects with UK-based institutions, especially in Scotland, both academic – e.g. SRUC, the University of Aberdeen, James Hutton Institute, the University of Leeds – and in the private and third sectors. De Lima was a member of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) Poverty and Ethnicity Programme Advisory Group (2012-18) and, as Associate Director at the Centre for Research in Families and Relationships (University of Edinburgh), involved in the Carnegie Universities Trust project *Language, Place and Identity: exploring children's linguistic and cognitive development in heritage and community languages*

(2017-19). Johnson is Honorary Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies, Global Associate at the University of Sussex, and Visiting Fellow at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is also on the advisory group for the ESRC's Impact Initiative and on the Board of the childhood stream (RN04) of the European Sociological Association. INS has collaborated with the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and St Andrews and the National Museums of Scotland on projects including the *Hjaltland Network*; and with the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham on Viking-themed projects.

External PhD supervisions have been as follows: Price – Universities of Edinburgh, Bern (Switzerland) and British Columbia (Canada); Heddle – East Tennessee State University (USA); Sanmark- University of Uppsala (Sweden); de Lima – University of Malta; Johnson – Goldsmiths, University of Brighton. Staff examined PhDs as follows: Price – Universities of Queensland (Australia) and Cambridge, and University College Dublin; Heddle – Universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde; Sanmark – Universities of Trondheim (Norway), Glasgow, and Durham; Johnson – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London.

Relationships with key research users, beneficiaries or audiences to develop impact from research and enrich the research environment.

CMS interactions include the following:

- Scottish Government (SG): a commissioned project identified research gaps to meet policy priorities for sustainable deer management and was a key resource for the independent Deer Working Group, which reported to the SG in 2020. The outcomes of this work are also used directly in an MSc module on sustainable deer management, developed and regularly updated in consultation with practitioners. Most students who take this module are not enrolled on the MSc, but are practitioners (from industry, public bodies, NGOs) who take the module for CPD. 81 students have successfully completed the module to date.
- Scottish Land Commission: a series of commissioned research projects on land ownership, building on the *Sustainable Estates for the 21st Century* project (see impact case study).
- Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA): community workshops on potential management measures for newly designated Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) (2014-15) used the innovative community voice method, and directly informed the implementation of the Sussex IFCA marine protected area (MPA) byelaw. This combines voluntary agreement and regulation of commercial and recreational fishing that promotes compliance and support from the community, while meeting the conservation requirements of two MCZs. The MCS collaborator is now a UHI PhD student (Bryce is Director of Studies), continuing this research.

INS works with business organisations across the Highlands and Islands and beyond.

- Work with the Edrington Group since 2012, to completely rebrand Highland Park whisky with a more Norse identity, represents an innovative collaboration between a university research centre and a commercial business. INS staff acted as research advisors for brand development, product packaging design, labelling, packaging and the website – engaging customers in not only the product but the heritage of the island on which it is made and giving Orkney's Nordic heritage an international reach.
- Blair was shortlisted for the Scottish Arts and Business Awards (International category) in 2017 in recognition of the interdisciplinary and internationally reviewed *Jon Schueler International Centenary Symposium*, film, and outreach events she organised.

At CRSC, the ESRC-DFID funded project, *YOUR World Research*, led by Johnson, has influenced government policies. In Ethiopia, the research has led to the inclusion of the most marginalised youth in the Government's National Youth Policy, according to the Director General of Youth Participation in the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth. In Nepal, the leader of the House in the Maoist Coalition Government has committed to inclusion of the most marginalised,

and provincial mayors and leaders of rural municipalities now invite youth to share perspectives on services. Johnson also participated in an online advisors' forum to provide expert input for a large DFID-funded consortium on child labour and modern slavery in South Asia.

Wider contributions to the economy and society

- CMS staff have had numerous meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, particularly in the context of work on UNESCO biosphere reserves. One outcome of these meetings has been our involvement in the emerging UNESCO National Trail, which will link all UNESCO sites in Scotland.
- INS works regularly with local businesses using Innovation Vouchers (a Scottish Funding Council initiative, to encourage new partnerships between a company and a university or further education college) and similar funding to create economically viable products, e.g. ongoing engagement with the very successful Highland Park Viking whisky collections for the Edrington Group, which also led to a funded PhD studentship.
- INS has developed an Orkney Green Badge Scottish Tourist Guiding Association course and an equivalent North Highlands Green Badge programme as part of a unique Certificate of Higher Education, based on our research to service the growing tourism industry in the Highlands and Islands. This has led to the creation of 175 SMEs. We are currently working on a similar qualification for the Outer Hebrides, South Highlands, and Vanuatu and Fiji in the South Pacific.
- At CRSC, de Lima has served as follows: SG Environment and Forestry Directorate, mid-Programme Review of the Strategic Research Portfolio (2018); Member of Review Panel; Commission on Highland Democracy; member (2017-18); Cross-Party Group on Social Science, Scottish Parliament; member (2017-); Child Poverty Action Group, Scottish Advisory Group; member (2006-18). Her work with the SG on *Farm Workers in Scottish Agriculture* (SRUC, 2018) is helping to shape SG's discussion on migration strategy in the context of Brexit.
- CRTR has worked, and is continuing to work, with diverse businesses and marketing organisations to develop slow adventure products, both within Scotland and in 19 countries across Europe through the European Travel Commission. CRTR is also involved in three projects funded by the ERASMUS+ programme to develop CPD courses: 1) *Adventure Tourism Vocational Education* (2017-19), on digital tourism and product development for adventure tourism SMEs; UHI is the lead partner, with others from Bulgaria, Ireland, Denmark and Estonia; 2) *Adventure Tourism Vocational Education and Training* (2017-20), on consumer skills for adventure tourism SMEs, with six other partners in three countries; 3) *Destination: Wellbeing Tourism Opportunities for Regions* (2019-21), with partners in Ireland, Iceland, Denmark, Slovenia and the Azores.

Exchanges between academia and other stakeholder bodies

Mechanisms to stimulate and facilitate exchanges between academia and business, industry, and international, public or third sector bodies include:

- CMS staff regularly attend stakeholder events and conferences held by external organisations e.g. SLE, NatureScot. They respond to Scottish Government consultations (e.g. the Land Use Strategy) and engage with the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) and Transport Scotland regarding their research strategies – the latter has led to doctoral research projects.
- CRTR staff are regularly invited to speak as industry experts on workshop and conference panels – for example at the Wild Scotland conference (2019) and a European Travel Commission workshop on Managing Sustainable Tourism Growth in Europe.
- Price: 1) UK representative on International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. In 2014-16, he was vice-chair and rapporteur of the Bureau, and led the development of a 10-year Action Strategy and Action Plan for this intergovernmental science programme, which includes a reinvigoration of research; 2) Commission on Ecosystem Management, IUCN: Co-chair, Thematic Group for Biosphere

Reserves (2016-21). In Scotland, Appointed Board member, CNPA, and member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of NatureScot.

- Taylor: director of Wild Scotland and Slow Adventure Limited. This company, derived from the SAINT project, collaborates with and assists its members to market slow adventures in Europe.
- Heddle: board member of Museums Galleries Scotland, the 30-strong Scotianomics Expert Panel, and the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Nordic Countries.
- Sanmark: member of the advisory boards for the Uppåkra Archaeological Centre and for the Gamla Uppsala Excavations, both in Sweden.
- Johnson: ESRC-DFID funded research partners include NGOs CHADET and ChildHope in Ethiopia and ActionAid Nepal, who have changed policies for work with marginalised youth and are implementing research findings across both countries. Government organisations for national vocational training have also changed their curricula for youth in response to the findings. Johnson is also on the Board of the Pesticide Action Network, working on pesticide-free towns across the UK and international research and advocacy.

Engagement with diverse communities and publics through research

Our research emphasises stakeholder and community engagement. Staff are skilled in stakeholder engagement processes, and have applied these in a range of research projects to engage with communities and stakeholder groups, both local and global, ranging from schools to government departments. This is evidenced by research projects and publications, e.g. Bryce's contributions to the *BiodivERsA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook* (2017) and a paper by Reed et al. (2018) which discusses approaches for planning and facilitating research impact using stakeholder and social network analyses. INS offers public seminar series in Orkney and Shetland, a joint seminar series with Perth and Kinross Art Gallery and Museum, and has a regular newspaper column for disseminating research and a very active social media presence. Other engagement activities include:

Price:

- Organisation of international conference *Mountains of our Future Earth*, Perth, October 2015, in collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment. This led to a special issue (vol 36, no. 4) of the peer-reviewed journal *Mountain Research and Development*, with 12 papers based on presentations, a synthesis of presentations, and proposals for future research directions.
- Participation in the MRI-Europe process leading to publication and presentation of Strategic Research Agenda *Mountains for Europe's Future* in Brussels, April 2016, and subsequent establishment and implementation of the Network for European Mountain Research (NEMOR).
- Preparation of report *Mountain Ecosystem Services and Climate Change – A Global Overview of Potential Threats and Strategies for Adaptation*, presented at the 20th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Lima, Peru, December 2014, published by UNESCO in 2017.
- Publication of *Mountains: A Very Short Introduction* by Oxford University Press, 2015 (translated into Japanese, 2017 and Chinese, 2021); 2) co-editor (with Maureen Reed, University of Saskatchewan) of *UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Supporting Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, and Society* (Earthscan, 2019), the first global book on biosphere reserves since UNESCO's MAB Programme was launched in 1971.

de Lima:

- Invited contributor to roundtable discussion of *After Brexit: 10 key questions for rural policy in Scotland*, organized by Centre for Rural Economy, University of Newcastle and SRUC (2017), published in 2018.
- Co-edited book: Copus, A. and de Lima, P. (eds) (2015) *Territorial Cohesion in Rural Europe: The Relational Turn in Rural Development*. London: Routledge. Received the 2015 Regional Studies Association Cities and Region Best Book Award.

Johnson:

- Invited to lead on ethics and methods for the inception phase for a DFID-funded consortium of academics and partners in Ghana and Ethiopia on the worst forms of child work in sub-Saharan Africa.

Indicators of wider influence, contributions to and recognition by the research base

Fellowships

- Price: elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 2018; UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development renewed for a third four-year period in 2018.
- Heddle: elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Editorial boards

- Heddle: North Atlantic World book series, Brepols; Saltire Award judge from 2018. Guest editor, *Journal of the North Atlantic*
- Jennings: *Northern Scotland*; Review Editor (History and Archaeology), the Scottish Society for Northern Studies.
- Price: *Journal of Mountain Science* (Associate Editor-in-Chief), *Mountain Research and Development*; *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services and Management* (until 2018)
- Sanmark: Series Editor, *The North Atlantic World - Land and Sea as Cultural Space – AD 400-1900*, Brepols; *Journal of the North Atlantic*.

Peer-reviewing

- Bryce: *Ecosystem Services, Sustainability Science, Land Use Policy, Ecological Economics, Landscape and Urban Planning, Journal of Rural Studies, Journal of Environmental Management, Conservation Biology, Journal of Applied Ecology, Biological Conservation*;
- Heddle: *Scottish Historical Review, Scottish Language, Innes Review, Language and Intercultural Communication, Weather*;
- Johnson: *Child Indicators Research, Children and Society, Children's Geographies, Action Research*;
- Sanmark: *Antiquity World Archaeology, Journal of European Archaeology, Internationales Sachsensymposium, Early Medieval Europe, Antiquity*;
- Taylor: *Journal of Sustainable Tourism, Journal of Recreation and Tourism*.

Review of proposals

- Heddle: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Scottish International Education Trust, Scottish Graduate School Arts and Humanities panel member;
- Price: ESRC Peer Review College (2012-19), Research Council of Norway, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), Canada Council for the Arts, Swiss Academy of Sciences, Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland;
- Sanmark: European Science Foundation (ESF)

Invited keynotes

de Lima	Regional Studies Association (RSA) <i>MICARD Network Research Symposium</i> , University of Lincoln	2018
Heddle	<i>Cold Water Islands Tourism Conference</i> , Arran	2015
	<i>Burroo symposium</i> , Isle of Man	2015
	<i>Council of Scottish Clans and Associations conference</i> , North Carolina, USA	2015
Johnson	Celebratory international symposium for the ESRC's Impact Initiative in Addis Ababa (held remotely)	2020
Price	<i>2nd Caucasus Mountain Forum</i> , Ankara, Turkey	2019
	<i>2nd International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions</i> , Nova Friburgo, Brazil; also Chair, Scientific Committee	2018
	<i>Thinking mountains Interdisciplinary Summit</i> , Banff, Canada	2018

	<i>Open symposium on mountain and people: regional and global prospects, Nagano, Japan</i>	2018
	<i>Mountain regions, territories of innovation, Grenoble, France</i>	2017
	<i>1st International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, Braganca, Portugal; also Chair, Scientific Committee</i>	2016
Taylor	<i>Bike Alpe Adria Conference, Dobrovo, Slovenia</i>	2015
	<i>Fjord Norway/NCE Tourism Workshop, Voss, Norway</i>	2014